

MOBILE.

OPERATIONS IN FRONT OF MOBILE.

CANBY AND THATCHER.

SIEGE OF SPANISH FORT.

Our Loss About Eight Hundred in Killed and Wounded.

General Steele's Command from Pensacola.

Capture of Brigadier General Canby, of Alabama; Twenty-two of His Officers, Four Hundred Men and About Four Hundred and Fifty Horses.

The Mobile and Montgomery Railroad Cut and Two Trains Captured.

Loss of the Monitors Milwaukee and Osage in Mobile Bay by Torpedoes.

Four Men Killed and Seven Injured.

A NAVAL ENGAGEMENT EXPECTED.

Steele and Canby's Columns Only Six Miles Apart.

MAP AND DESCRIPTION OF SPANISH FORT.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The transport steamer *Merrimack*, Captain P. A. Simpson, from New Orleans April 2, arrived at Spanish Fort, Alabama, yesterday morning about half past five o'clock. The steamer left New Orleans at half past five o'clock on Sunday morning last, making the run from dock to dock in exactly six days, and from her in five days, thirteen hours and thirty minutes—time of the quickest passage on record. This steamer is one of the fastest afloat. Great praise is due her officers for keeping the steamer in such good order in the transport service. For cleanliness, a good table and gentlemanly officers, the *Merrimack* is equal to any regular line of passenger steamships. The chief officers are Captain P. A. Simpson, First Officer Harry Barclay, Purser George H. Green, Chief Engineer Richard Lavery, Second Engineer John A. Hunt. The foregoing notice is published in the *Herald* at the request of the passengers.

The following soldiers died and were buried at sea—

April 3—Simon Walker, Twenty-first New York battery; David A. Phillips, Co. E, Thirty-fourth New Jersey; April 4—O. A. Coburn, United States Navy; O. F. Murphy, Sixth Massachusetts battery.

April 4—A. Beach, Co. G, Second New York cavalry; Chase Wamsell, Co. G, Thirty-fourth New York.

The new steamer *Liberty* was advertised to leave for New York, via Havana, at eight A. M. on Sunday. She is chartered for the present by the New York Mail Steamship Company. The run from Morris Castle to Southwest Pass on her last trip was made in forty-eight hours. The *Liberty* is a good, staunch vessel. She was built in Philadelphia about a year ago. She is commanded by Captain T. W. Wilson, Purser C. H. Dennison, Chief Engineer Thomas Callan.

THE ARMY.

Mr. Henry Thompson Despatches.

IN FAVOR OF SPANISH FORT.

OFFICIALS MOBILE, March 27, 1865.

FIRST DAY'S MARCH—CRIMINAL.

My last despatch from this army was dated from Canby's Mills, on Fish River, Alabama. On Saturday last, at six o'clock A. M., the corps of General Granger and Smith commenced marching through the pine forests of Alabama, in the direction of Blakeley. The entire force of the enemy in our front during the first day's march did not exceed two hundred and fifty men. These delayed our advance by sharp skirmishing, and though the rebels were compelled to fall back, they did so very slowly, and not small force of their number were killed, and wounded and captured, when they disappeared and did not attempt to interrupt our advance during the remainder of the day's march. Two of our skirmishers were wounded.

Colonel Marshall, of the Seventh Minnesota, commanding the Third brigade of the First division in the Sixth army corps, while riding at the head of his column, was shot in the neck by a sharpshooter on his left flank, the ball grazing the spine. The wound, though serious, is not a dangerous one.

SECOND DAY'S MARCH—THE REBELS FROM OUR FRONT.

The Third brigade yesterday moved on a road to the left, leading to Spanish Fort—a strong earthwork on Mobile bay, commanding Minetta Bay. As they advanced a rebel force of about five hundred cavalry skirmished for several miles, but were driven within the fortifications surrounding Spanish Fort. A deserter states that the rebels lost severely in this skirmish. Last night the corps of General Granger encamped on the extreme left of Spanish Fort.

The Sixth corps continued on the road to Blakeley, and about noon marched through "Deer Park," one of the most beautiful and picturesque sections of country in the South.

The Ninth Minnesota were deployed as skirmishers, and engaged the enemy many of the rebels during the entire march. The rebels seemed determined to resist the advance as much as possible, but our overwhelming force compelled them to fall back, until we reached Sibby's Mills, when they attempted to burn the bridge over Bayou Minet. This was prevented by a volley and sharp skirmish, in which the enemy lost one killed and ten wounded. Our loss was one man killed and two wounded. As it was supposed that we were moving on Blakeley, the rebels fled to that town for the purpose of warning the garrison of our approach; but they were mistaken, for, though we arrived at Sibby's Mills about noon, and were not more than five miles distant from that town, we did not proceed further in that direction.

MARCH 28, 1865.

THE REBELS ATTEMPT TO SURPRISE OUR PICKETS—IMPORTANT CAPTURE.

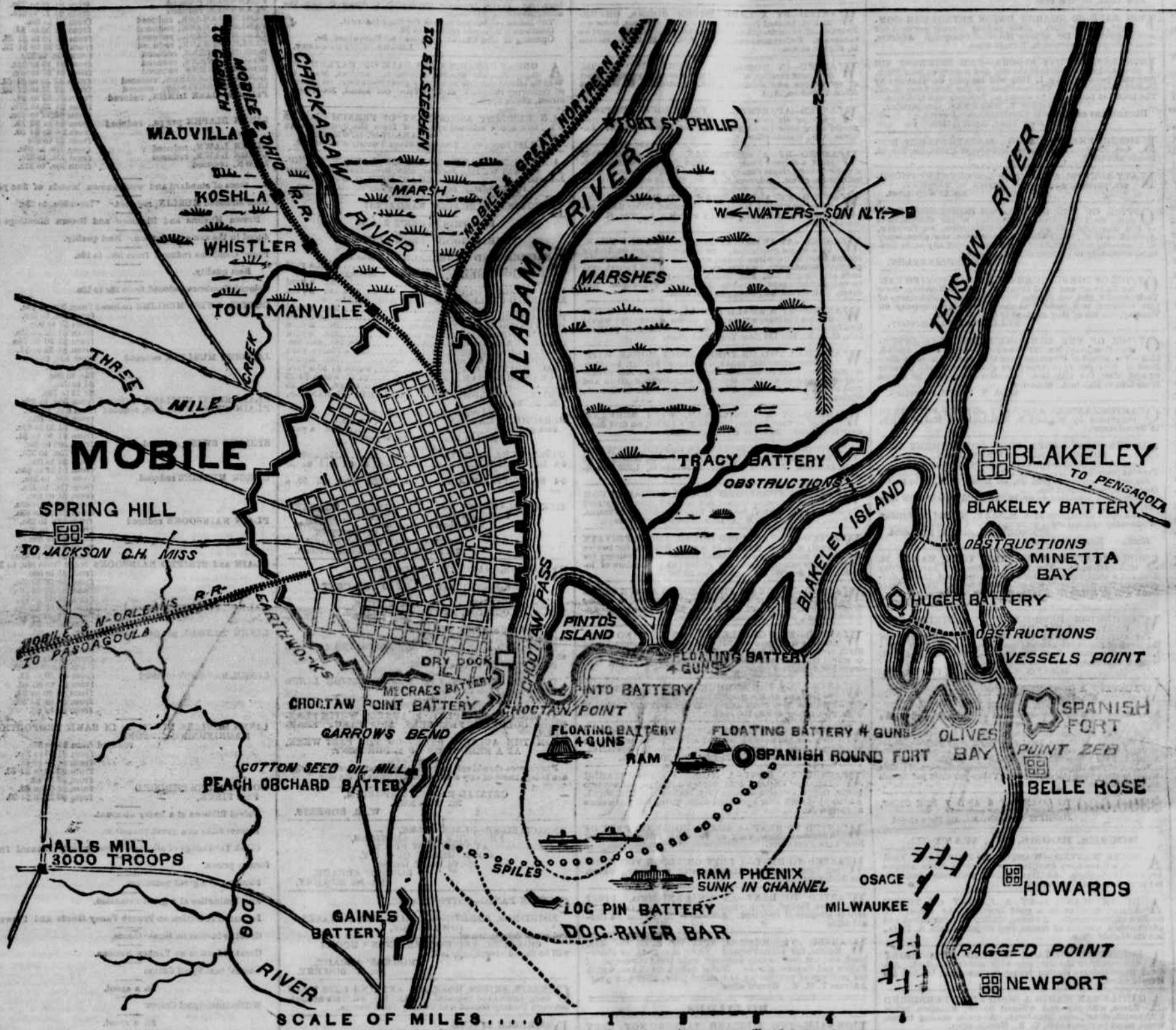
Early yesterday morning the enemy in front of Spanish Fort attempted to surprise the pickets of the Thirtieth corps. After a few moments' brisk firing the rebels were repulsed. We lost four men wounded, the enemy's loss being unknown.

A rebel telegraph office and several important despatches were captured by Colonel Bertram's brigade. Some of the despatches purported to give an account of the force of this column, General Steele's, from Pensacola, the day after last, the number of our guns, their calibre, &c.

THE ADVANCE ON SPANISH FORT.

Yesterday morning the advance on Spanish Fort com-

Map of Mobile Bay and Spanish Fort—The Position of the Monitors Milwaukee and Osage When They Were Blown Up by Torpedoes.



meered. The Third division of the Sixteenth army corps, General Granger commanding, followed by the First division, under General McArthur, were in motion as early as six o'clock A. M., and in a few moments were marching in the direction of the fort, which was about three miles distant.

As I have already informed your readers, the Thirtieth corps had arrived in front of Spanish Fort the night previous, and while the Sixteenth were advancing on the right General Bertram's brigade of the Thirtieth corps was forming on the extreme left, followed by General Benton's and General Veach's divisions. The First division of the Sixteenth army corps, General McArthur, joined the division of General Veach, forming the center and right center, while the division of General Cobb occupied the extreme right, the remaining division of the Sixteenth corps (General Granger's) being about two miles in the rear, guarding the trains.

INVESTMENT OF SPANISH FORT BY LAND.

While the regiments were forming in line of battle along the entire front the artillery was preparing to open on the enemy's works.

Skirmishing was very lively all day. The rain fell in torrents, but there was no abatement to either the military or artillery firing.

The rebels were driven slowly back, and took refuge beyond their rifle pits. Earthworks were hastily thrown up by our men, and in a few hours Spanish Fort was completely invested on the land side. When the sun came down the artillery ceased on each side, though musketry firing was kept up for two hours after. Our loss in the Thirtieth and Sixteenth corps was about one hundred and eighty in killed and wounded.

Our forces held their ground. Rifle pits were thrown up in the night, and Tuesday morning dawned upon the improved position of the advance, while several batteries were in position within four hundred yards of the fort. ALL THE HEADQUARTERS CHIEFS FEEL THE MONITORS SKILLING THE WORK.

The country in front of Spanish Fort is very hilly. At the distance of half a mile the fort cannot be distinguished, though built upon a high bluff. This is owing to the denseness of the trees and shrubbery in front and on each side.

Yesterday and last night the division and corps headquarters were all under fire, and this morning General Smith, commanding the Sixteenth corps, and General McArthur, commanding the First division, were compelled to move their headquarters further to the rear, as shells and bullets flew about in most uncomfortable proximity, one (an eight-inch shell) burying itself in the earth in the midst of General Smith's staff. Our batteries opened this morning about six o'clock; musketry firing was also resumed. Heavy firing was heard in the direction of the bay to the left of Spanish Fort. At first it was supposed to be the enemy's gunboats shelling the woods; but it afterwards proved to be our monitors firing along the right shore, near Stark's and Howard's landings, for the purpose of clearing the country of rebels in that neighborhood and to secure a landing for our transports and a base for the army.

FIVE MONITORS AND THE OCEANOGRAPHY CROSS BLAKELEY RIVER.

This afternoon Major Putnam, of General Canby's staff, arrived from Stark's Landing, and reported five of our monitors crossing Blakeley river bar, and that a sixth was crossing as he was leaving.

Captain Eaton, chief signal officer (also on General Canby's staff), left Stark's Landing about an hour later. He reports that five monitors and the *Oceography* are across the bar and lying at anchor a short distance beyond. A fleet of rebel gunboats, he also reports, is in sight. A naval engagement is soon expected to take place.

MARCH 29, 1865.

CLOSING IN ON OLD SPANISH FORT—BARROW BRIDGE OF GENERAL GRANGER AND McARTHUR.

There was a very lively time along the whole line today. Our skirmishers and working parties had advanced to within eighty yards of the fort, while three or four batteries were stationed within from three to four hundred yards.

Last night General Granger and General McArthur advanced to the skirmish line, in company with Captain Cobb, chief commissary, and an orderly carrying the Thirtieth corps flag. As night had been expected,

the flag drew the enemy's fire, and the orderly was shot in the face. General Granger's horse was wounded in the foot, and even the favorite dog of the General, which accompanied him, was slightly wounded in the leg. General Granger, General McArthur and Captain Cobb returned without receiving the slightest injury.

TORPEDOES BURIED IN THE EARTH—ONE MAN KILLED, TWO WOUNDED AND FOUR HORSES KILLED.

Considerable excitement was caused yesterday by the explosion of three or four torpedoes near the end of a bridge over D'Olive's creek, on the way to Stark's Landing. One man was killed, two injured, and four horses killed. The ground in the neighborhood was searched, and fifteen torpedoes were dug out of the road.

To-day a wagon passed over and exploded a torpedo. General Bailey's brigade of engineers were set to work to build a new bridge over D'Olive's creek and corduroy and build up the roads, which are becoming impassable.

This morning three more torpedoes have been discovered, two near the landing and the other near General Bailey's headquarters, a short distance above. They are seven, eight and eleven inch shells, filled with powder, with a percussion cap neatly fixed on the top. These are placed lightly under the soil, so that the slightest pressure will cause them to explode. In riding from the front to the landing or returning there is danger of exploding a torpedo at every step.

A negro woman, who informed our men of the whereabouts of some of these torpedoes, said that just over the hill the rebels had "buried some cannons." The rebels, I learn, when they placed them in the ground, called the route over which they were laid, and which they had no doubt they would take, the "Yankee shell road."

FOUR MEN KILLED AND NINE WOUNDED BY THE EXPLOSION OF A REBEL.

This afternoon four men were killed and nine wounded by the bursting of a shell in General Dennis' brigade, of Veach's division. To-day another shell fell into the midst of a party of ten or twelve soldiers assembled around a fire preparing coffee for breakfast. It hit into the ground, scattering the earth in such a manner that five or six of the party were thrown down, upset the coffee pot, and passed on without injuring a single man. Four natives were also instantly killed to-day by a shell passing through the bodies of three of them, when it exploded, killing the fourth.

OUR FORCES CLOSING ON THE REBEL WORKS—A SINGULAR MISTAKE.

Our forces are gradually approaching Spanish Fort. They are now entrenched within a distance of seventy yards of the enemy's rifle pits. Our loss in killed and wounded will average about one hundred and fifty per day. The loss in officers has been very small in proportion. I have not heard of one being killed, and but some eight or ten wounded.

A singular mistake occurred this evening. Captain Myers, officer of the day for the Third brigade, Third division, Sixteenth army corps, with a blanket over his shoulder, went to the front for the purpose of distributing ammunition to the men. Owing to the darkness and the proximity of the hostile force, he was in the midst of the enemy without discovering his mistake, and was in the act of giving a quantity of ammunition to a rebel officer when the blanket was blown partly aside, disclosing the "Yankee" shoulder strap. The rebel at once drew his revolver and shot the officer in the leg. Our men understanding the state of affairs, rushed forward and rescued the officer, the rebels falling back before the volley which met them as the Union soldiers advanced.

THREE HUNDRED OF THE ENEMY CUT OFF—THE ENEMY-REAR LINES COMMAND A REBEL PORTON BRIDGE.

The Third brigade of the Third division of the Sixteenth army corps yesterday cut off three hundred of the enemy on the extreme right, but were unable to capture them, as the rebels took refuge in a swamp.

The Eighty-third Illinois, of this brigade, commands a rebel pontoon bridge on the extreme right, but at last accounts had been unable to capture it, on account of the swamp.

MARCH 30, 1865.

A NIGHT ATTACK—THE REBELS REVEALED.

About two o'clock this morning three companies of the Seventh Vermont, one company from the Ninety-first Illinois and one company from the Fifth Indiana were sent out for the purpose of relieving the advance line of skirmishers in front of General Veach's division.

THE HEAVY FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.

The firing at Spanish Fort was distinctly heard at Dauphin Island to-day. It commenced early in the morning and continued until sundown. It was by far the heaviest and most rapid of the siege. There is no doubt

that our monitors, mortars and siege guns are in position and have opened upon Spanish Fort. No additional particulars were received of the result up to the time of the steamer's departure from New Orleans.

To Captain Christopher Green and Purser James W. Stevens, of the fleet transport steamer *Alce Vivian*, your correspondents are much indebted for favors received on the trip from Dauphin Island to New Orleans.

A WOUNDED REBEL'S STATEMENT.

The following important news I learn from a wounded rebel sergeant of the Forty-second Alabama regiment. He belonged to a company of volunteers at Selma. This rebel was captured during the day, and was exempt from conscription; but as he was a volunteer he was conscripted and was sent to the front as a private.

On the extreme right the enemy's gunboats and transports are within musket range of our troops. We have built an earthwork within one hundred and seventy-five yards of the fort for the purpose of mounting siege guns. The guns have arrived, and in the morning it is expected that they will open on the enemy's gunboats and transports. As in the case of the pontoon and the three hundred rebels that are cut off, we have been unable to this time to interfere with the movements of the enemy's vessels on account of the swamps.

REBELS GENERAL BATTERY AT WORK AGAIN.

General Bailey, of Red River dam society, is a very hardworking man. He is building a substantial wharf at Stark's Landing, and has already three or four pontoon wharves running from the shore from seventy-five to one hundred yards into the bay.

Recently he had a fine officer's mess chest, enclosing a silver service for six persons, presented to him by Rear Admiral Porter, as a substantial appreciation of his services in saving his boat on the Red River. The General has recently received an autograph letter from the Admiral, conveying the gratifying intelligence.

THE MONITORS AND THE SUBMARINE.

The transport steamer *Thomas* left Stark's Landing last night for New Orleans, with one hundred and thirty wounded men on board, in charge of Dr. L. F. Munster, medical inspector of the Thirtieth corps. The hospital of the First division, Sixteenth corps, was within range of the enemy's shells. On Tuesday morning last a shell exploded in the hospital, cutting off an arm and a leg of a wounded man, and compelling the officer in charge to remove the hospital further to the rear. Dr. E. H. Abadie is the chief medical officer in this army. He is an old army surgeon, having been in the service nearly twenty-five years. I learn that he was recently promoted to rank as colonel.

The chief surgeons in the First division hospital of the Thirtieth corps are Dr. Joseph E. Martin, in charge; Dr. Bartlett, Thirty-fifth Iowa, and Dr. Kennedy, Fifth Maine. In the Third division, Dr. Dyer, Eighty-first Illinois, surgeon-in-chief of division; Dr. Green, Ninety-fifth Illinois, surgeon in charge, and Dr. Powell, Seventy-second Illinois.

Dr. F. Struble, formerly of this city, and Dr. Garrett, assistant surgeon, arrived in this city yesterday morning on the steamer *Merrimack*, with two hundred and sixty sick soldiers from New Orleans, the hospitals having been cleared as much as possible for the wounded.

As I have already stated, the loss in killed and wounded during each day's siege will average about one hundred and fifty men in General Granger's and Smith's corps, or about eight hundred up to Friday, the first.

The officers wounded whose names I could learn are Captain Ryan, of the Forty-seventh Illinois, arm amputated; Captain W. M. Bullock, Company E, One Hundred and Eighty Illinois, leg badly fractured above the knee while advancing with his company on the skirmish line; Henry Fulson, Seventh Minnesota, slightly; Captain E. F. Stone, Company B, Twentieth Wisconsin, seriously.

MARCH 31, 1865.

THE HEAVY FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.

The firing at Spanish Fort was distinctly heard at Dauphin Island to-day. It commenced early in the morning and continued until sundown. It was by far the heaviest and most rapid of the siege. There is no doubt

that our monitors, mortars and siege guns are in position and have opened upon Spanish Fort. No additional particulars were received of the result up to the time of the steamer's departure from New Orleans.

To Captain Christopher Green and Purser James W. Stevens, of the fleet transport steamer *Alce Vivian*, your correspondents are much indebted for favors received on the trip from Dauphin Island to New Orleans.

A WOUNDED REBEL'S STATEMENT.

The following important news I learn from a wounded rebel sergeant of the Forty-second Alabama regiment. He belonged to a company of volunteers at Selma. This rebel was captured during the day, and was exempt from conscription; but as he was a volunteer he was conscripted and was sent to the front as a private.

On the extreme right the enemy's gunboats and transports are within musket range of our troops. We have built an earthwork within one hundred and seventy-five yards of the fort for the purpose of mounting siege guns. The guns have arrived, and in the morning it is expected that they will open on the enemy's gunboats and transports. As in the case of the pontoon and the three hundred rebels that are cut off, we have been unable to this time to interfere with the movements of the enemy's vessels on account of the swamps.

REBELS GENERAL BATTERY AT WORK AGAIN.

General Bailey, of Red River dam society, is a very hardworking man. He is building a substantial wharf at Stark's Landing, and has already three or four pontoon wharves running from the shore from seventy-five to one hundred yards into the bay.

Recently he had a fine officer's mess chest, enclosing a silver service for six persons, presented to him by Rear Admiral Porter, as a substantial appreciation of his services in saving his boat on the Red River. The General has recently received an autograph letter from the Admiral, conveying the gratifying intelligence.

THE MONITORS AND THE SUBMARINE.

The transport steamer *Thomas* left Stark's Landing last night for New Orleans, with one hundred and thirty wounded men on board, in charge of Dr. L. F. Munster, medical inspector of the Thirtieth corps. The hospital of the First division, Sixteenth corps, was within range of the enemy's shells. On Tuesday morning last a shell exploded in the hospital, cutting off an arm and a leg of a wounded man, and compelling the officer in charge to remove the hospital further to the rear. Dr. E. H. Abadie is the chief medical officer in this army. He is an old army surgeon, having been in the service nearly twenty-five years. I learn that he was recently promoted to rank as colonel.

The chief surgeons in the First division hospital of the Thirtieth corps are Dr. Joseph E. Martin, in charge; Dr. Bartlett, Thirty-fifth Iowa, and Dr. Kennedy, Fifth Maine. In the Third division, Dr. Dyer, Eighty-first Illinois, surgeon-in-chief of division; Dr. Green, Ninety-fifth Illinois, surgeon in charge, and Dr. Powell, Seventy-second Illinois.

Dr. F. Struble, formerly of this city, and Dr. Garrett, assistant surgeon, arrived in this city yesterday morning on the steamer *Merrimack*, with two hundred and sixty sick soldiers from New Orleans, the hospitals having been cleared as much as possible for the wounded.

As I have already stated, the loss in killed and wounded during each day's siege will average about one hundred and fifty men in General Granger's and Smith's corps, or about eight hundred up to Friday, the first.

The officers wounded whose names I could learn are Captain Ryan, of the Forty-seventh Illinois, arm amputated; Captain W. M. Bullock, Company E, One Hundred and Eighty Illinois, leg badly fractured above the knee while advancing with his company on the skirmish line; Henry Fulson, Seventh Minnesota, slightly; Captain E. F. Stone, Company B, Twentieth Wisconsin, seriously.

MARCH 31, 1865.

THE HEAVY FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.

The firing at Spanish Fort was distinctly heard at Dauphin Island to-day. It commenced early in the morning and continued until sundown. It was by far the heaviest and most rapid of the siege. There is no doubt

that our monitors, mortars and siege guns are in position and have opened upon Spanish Fort. No additional particulars were received of the result up to the time of the steamer's departure from New Orleans.

To Captain Christopher Green and Purser James W. Stevens, of the fleet transport steamer *Alce Vivian*, your correspondents are much indebted for favors received on the trip from Dauphin Island to New Orleans.

A WOUNDED REBEL'S STATEMENT.

The following important news I learn from a wounded rebel sergeant of the Forty-second Alabama regiment. He belonged to a company of volunteers at Selma. This rebel was captured during the day, and was exempt from conscription; but as he was a volunteer he was conscripted and was sent to the front as a private.

On the extreme right the enemy's gunboats and transports are within musket range of our troops. We have built an earthwork within one hundred and seventy-five yards of the fort for the purpose of mounting siege guns. The guns have arrived, and in the morning it is expected that they will open on the enemy's gunboats and transports. As in the case of the pontoon and the three hundred rebels that are cut off, we have been unable to this time to interfere with the movements of the enemy's vessels on account of the swamps.

surrendered without making the slightest resistance, and the greater portion of those who attempted to escape were overtaken before reaching the Little Escambia river.

THE REBELS' LOSS.

One brigadier general (Clauson), twenty-two officers, four hundred men and four hundred and fifty horses were captured. A large portion of the enemy who escaped dismounted and fled into the woods.

TWO WAGON TRAINS AND ONE HUNDRED PRISONERS CAPTURED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEVENS.

On the day that General Steele left Pensacola Lieutenant Colonel Spurling, commanding a brigade of cavalry, started for Baranosa, Florida. He landed at Kregler's Mills, on the Blackwater river.

On Monday detachments from the Second Maine and First Florida cavalry regiments were sent to the Mobile and Montgomery Railroad, for the purpose of cutting the road. This they accomplished, and also succeeded in capturing two of the enemy's wagon trains. Colonel Spurling also captured one hundred prisoners.

Blakeley—where General Steele was last heard from—is not more than six miles from Spanish Fort.

THE NAVY.

STARK'S LANDING, MOBILE BAY, March 29, 1865.

THE MONITORS MILWAUKEE AND OSAGE SUNK BY TORPEDOES.

The readers of the *Herald* will be pained to learn that two of our best monitors in Mobile bay—the Milwaukee and Osage—each exploded a torpedo, and now lie sunk a short distance beyond Blakeley river bar, seven or eight miles from Mobile. The Milwaukee was blown up yesterday and the Osage to-day. Only one man was injured on the former, but on the latter four of our gallant sailors were killed, and six seriously injured.

The sunken iron-clads lie very near each other in ten or eleven feet of water. The upper part of their turrets, pilot houses and smokestacks, with a portion of the dock of the Milwaukee, is above water. One of the turrets of the latter is in good working order. To-day several of her fifteen-inch shells were sent in the direction of Spanish Fort.

THE MONITORS IN LINE OF BATTLE.

Heretofore our monitors had not advanced over Blakeley river bar, as it was considered very dangerous to cross, partly owing to the low state of the water thereon and the number of torpedoes with which that portion of the bay was filled.

On Monday, when the army of General Canby advanced on Spanish Fort by land, the monitors Milwaukee, Kickapoo, Chickasaw, Milwaukee and Osage, with the double-ended *O-torara*, succeeded in crossing Blakeley river bar in safety, and formed in line of battle immediately beyond. The intention undoubtedly was to invest Spanish Fort and its extensive line of works by water as well as by land, cut off all communication from Mobile, and prevent the rebels from either reinforcing or transporting supplies, and finally capture the entire garrison.

Our seamen glanced with pride along the formidable line of iron-clads on Monday afternoon, believing that nearly half their work was accomplished by crossing the bar; but, alas, scarcely forty-eight hours had elapsed before two of our best monitors were blown up by torpedoes and lay almost useless at the bottom of the bay. The remainder, if they advanced, were in danger of sharing the same fate.

THE MONITORS OF THE MILWAUKEE.

On Tuesday afternoon the Milwaukee and Osage were weighed anchor and started in the direction of Spanish Fort for the purpose of shelling the fort, and a report was received that the Milwaukee had sunk two or three torpedoes.

The water battery opposite Spanish Fort then opened fire on the monitors, and though they were two miles distant, one gun (supposed to be a Whitworth), threw shells far beyond them.

The Milwaukee and Milwaukee were ordered to return to their positions in line of battle, and from one of the officers of the former vessel I learn that the Milwaukee struck a torpedo in backing, and that at a quarter past five o'clock she slowly settled to the bottom, sinking by the stern.

From another naval officer I learn that Captain Gillis, of the Milwaukee, asked permission to shell the battery which was immediately granted. After firing about a dozen shots Captain Gillis requested the Admiral to anchor and silence the fort. This request the Admiral refused, and ordered the Milwaukee to return to the fleet, when in backing into line she struck a torpedo and sank.

One man was injured by the explosion. The officers and crew were rescued without difficulty by the boats of the other vessels, which instantly came alongside. As the ship sank in ten feet of water the crew were enabled to reach her deck and remain in perfect safety until taken off. The explosion of the torpedo, I learn, was not heard a great distance and but for the spray, the spinning of the water, and the heaving and settling of the monitor, many who were looking at her at the time would not have known what had taken place.

SINKING OF THE OSAGE.

The weather on Wednesday afternoon was glorious. The loss of the Milwaukee, through the devilish ingenuity of rebel torpedo planting, was a terrible trial to the hearts of our gallant officers and seamen on board the other monitors; but they only waited for orders to advance and engage the enemy, and on receiving them would not doubt as boldly have left the line for that purpose as their unfortunate predecessor had done twenty hours previous. The Chickasaw, Kickapoo, Winnebago, the sunken monitor and the *O-torara* were in line, the Osage being at anchor a short distance astern. Hearing that the latter might foul with the others, the Osage got under way for the purpose of steaming ahead and anchoring near the last shore, on the edge of the channel. As she was preparing to cast anchor she struck and exploded a torpedo on the starboard bow, which injured her so seriously that she almost instantly sank. When the explosion took place John Tonnant, captain of the foremast, and William Boyesen, chief boatman's mate, were standing by the anchor in "let go." They, with the anchor, were blown thirty feet in the air. Both men were killed.

During the confusion consequent upon the disaster, a report spread that six men were killed, ten or twelve wounded and all the firemen missing. It was soon discovered, however, that only four men were killed and six wounded. The names of two of the killed I have already given you; the others were Lewis Dowell, master at arms of the lower deck, and William Fager. The names of the injured I could not learn.

A REBEL SALUTE IN HONOR OF THE DISASTER—REBELLION OF THE CREW OF THE OSAGE.

The Osage had scarcely reached the bottom of the bay before the rebel batteries of Spanish Fort—those on each side of the bay—and the guns of the Nashville, were thundering forth a salute in honor of the disaster. When the Milwaukee sank the fleet heeling over in the direction of Spanish Fort; but when the Osage went down the enemy saluted as if for a great victory.

As in the case of the *Tacoma* and Milwaukee, the force of the explosion suddenly raised the Osage, and when she reached the water she floated rapidly and sank to the bottom of the bay. Her turret, pilot house and smoke stack alone remain visible. Though she sank in about the same depth of water as the Milwaukee, she has the appearance of being submerged two feet deeper. This is owing to her being lower than the Milwaukee and of a different style of iron-clad, the Milwaukee resembling the original monitor, though much larger, and having two turrets, while the Osage is a Mississippi "turret boat."

The news of the loss of this valuable iron-clad spread like wildfire through the fleet, and in a few moments her officers and crew were rescued.

Each of the monitors sent boats to their assistance, while the United States steamship *Niagara* and *Rudolph* got under way and steamed alongside.

In the rescue of the crews of both the Milwaukee and Osage, the officers of these vessels exhibited great coolness and presence of mind, and Captain Gillis and Gambell were the last to leave their decks.

The officers of both vessels had nearly all their clothing. They say that they are ready to take another monitor and advance on Spanish Fort or any other of the enemy's forts on the bay.

THE MONITORS OF THE MILWAUKEE AND OSAGE.

Owing to the shallowness of the water where the Milwaukee and Osage lie, it is hoped that both monitors can be raised, and submarine armor have been sent for from Pensacola for that purpose. At low water the Milwaukee and Osage are visible to the eye.

CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.